

SALINA ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION
October 18, 2006

The monthly meeting of the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission was held at the Smoky Hill Museum Community Room at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. In attendance were Marilyn Benyshek, Shirley Braxton, Shawn Crawford, Peggy DeBey, Brett Halderman, Randall Hardy, Rachel Loersch, Gayle McMillen, Linda Moore, Cheri Parr, Linda Smith, John K. Vanier II, and Ted Zerger. Staff Present: Sharon Benson, Kathy Burlew, Carrie Carpenter, Brigid Hall, John Highkin, Glenda Johnson, and Karla Prickett. Also in attendance: April Middleton; Salina Journal. Absent: Luci Larson.

Smith called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Focus Time: Donna Antrim - Salina Symphony

Guest speaker from the Salina Symphony was Executive Director, Donna Antrim. She reported the Symphony's ticket sales were up 22.8%. She talked briefly about the concert that took place last weekend, a big success with guest pianist who performed Gershwin among other American composers. She distributed brochures that featured local musicians, with the marketing focus to let the public know what kind of people make the Symphony successful. These players have full time jobs and still give their time freely. Salina is so blessed by all the local arts events that happen all year.

Ms. Antrim said that the Youth Symphony rehearses weekly for one concert a year. The main Symphony is doing a Mozart opera with KWU. Last year the Stiefel's orchestra pit was used for the first time and will be used again. As someone who grew up in Salina but was gone for several decades, Ms. Antrim said that she sees Salina as a vibrant community with so much going on; we need to be proud. She mentioned that cultural organizations meet once a month through the Cultural Roundtable to collaborate on events (e.g., First Thursday Art Rush, Bravo Salina!) and coordinate timing of programs. Finally, Ms. Antrim talked about the Symphony's Horizons grant "Pictures at an Exhibition", and how important that is for the Symphony's education work and the 2006-07 season.

Minutes

McMillen motioned to approve the September 20, 2006 minutes and Hardy seconded. Motion passed.

Staff Reports

Benson reminded everyone about the Ballet Gran Folklorico de Mexico performance at the Stiefel Theatre, Tuesday, October 24th @ 7:30 a.m. Benson had tickets for sale. Over 1400 kids are signed up to come to the day concerts (9:30a.m. & 12:30p.m.). Highkin will be doing Americans for the Arts' Economic Impact Surveys for the evening event. Larson and Loersch will help distribute the surveys.

Committee Assignments

Smith discussed the committee assignments for each Commissioner. The smaller committees will help complete work that needs done and then information will be shared with the rest of the Commissioners during regular meetings.

The committees are as follows:

Community Art & Design

Marilyn Benyshek

Peggy DeBey

Ted Zerger

Staff: Highkin and Prickett

Finance

Randy Hardy

Cheri Parr

Brett Halderman

Bill Medina (non-Commissioner)

Staff: Highkin and Johnson

Horizons

Shirley Braxton

Shawn Crawford

Linda Moore

Staff: Highkin and Benson

Planning/Community Awareness

Luci Larson

Rachel Loersch

Gayle McMillen

Linda Smith

Staff: Highkin and Burlew

Each committee will meet after the Foundation meeting to set a date for their first meeting.

Horizons

Final reports regarding the Artist Award grants, that were received for spring 06, were discussed - Joseph Lidgett and Nancy Williams. Material for each grant was distributed. Highkin commented on liking Williams' narrative – "she really learned something...got something different out of the experience than she thought she would." Lidgett attended last month's meeting to report on how this award helped him be successful. Robin Ginther's final report will be in the packet next month.

Museum Update

Highkin – Hawksworth will be returning Friday, Oct. 20th. Two positions vacancies Education Coordinator and Curator of Exhibits – Highkin and Hawksworth will be fast

tracking the process for hiring, along with community members. Re accreditation with American Association of Museums (AAM) is due in mid-September 2007. This is a very important self-study process and will be a very high priority for Hawksworth.

First Thursday Art Rush was a huge success – new programs are scheduled for November 2nd event. The Art Center will be projecting videos on the wall above the Farmer's Market parking lot – this will help draw people to the Museum.

Gallery Renovation – still looking for a craftsperson to redo the ceiling in the lobby. The new sign on the front of the building was installed before Santa Fe Day along with the donor signs that are displayed in the lobby. Bob Salem, Joyce Volk, and Highkin will be meeting with Rod Franz to discuss the leftover money from the Gallery Renovation.

Santa Fe Day updates – 1700 in the parade audience plus the people in the parade. Overall feedback from the parade was successful - going straight down Santa Fe was a huge improvement. The Blades played at Campbell Plaza and kept people downtown for shopping (audience of 150). Big improvement for the Chili cook-off moving to the church parking lot – good smells. Count for people visiting the Gallery was 1800. In past years numbers fizzled out before the day was over but this year people stuck around until 4:00 p.m.

Other

Dates to Remember

- October 19 – Farewell/Welcome Commissioner Party – 618 Gypsum – 7:00 p.m.
- October 24 - Ballet Gran Folklórico de México – Stiefel – 7:30 p.m.
- October 28 – Scary Stories – Jerry Ivey Park – 8:00 p.m.
- November 2 - First Thursday Art Rush – 5-7 p.m.
- November 7 – Horizons Grant Review – 4:00 p.m.
- December 1 – Horizons Organizational Grants Deadline

DeBey – there will be a special project FLOB (Floral Objects) presented at the Stiefel Watson room on November's First Thursday Art Rush. Eighteen pieces of floral art made by local artists will be displayed. McMillen acknowledged his wife, Jane McMillen, will have homemade purses for sale at YARNS. Prickett complimented Carpenter on her work, advertising the First Thursday Art Rush event.

Benyshek motioned to adjourn the meeting and Benyshek seconded. Motion passed.

Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

/kab